MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now the House stands adjourned for lunch to re-assemble at 2.30 p.m.

14.28.hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha Re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty-Four Minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to provide more Central assistance to Madhya Pradesh for drought relief operations in the eastern district of State

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHANLAL JHIKRAM (Mandla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, most of the districts in the eastern region of Madhya Pradesh and particularly Mandla district is at present facing acute drought. In the beginning of this year, the estimated production of Kharif crop was good but at the time of ripening of the crop, it got dried up for want of rains and means of irrigation. Since it did not rain at the last moment, the Rabi crop too has been affected. In the situation of drought, neither the farmers were able to till the land nor sow the seeds. In this way, several districts including Mandla and Siwani had come under drought due to which thousands of residents of these areas are migrating to Jabalpur, Banda and Bhandra districts in search of work.

Therefore, I would request the Central Government to provide more assistance to Madhya Pradesh for undertaking drought relief operations in the drought hit districts of the State.

(ii) Need to finalise appropriate scheme for raising palm oil plantation on large scale in Little Andaman and other Islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

[*English*]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar Islands): The country is facing tremendous economic crisis for want of adequate foreign exchange reserves. The Government is however forced to import certain essential commodities like edible oil, by burdening the national exchequer. Time and again the Union Government spell out the need to increase oil seed production for meeting domestic edible oil requirement. Fortunately the Andaman and Nicobar Islands can contribute substantially by producing palm oil which can reduce the import bill. Though the programme for raising palm oil plantation in Andaman was taken up long before, only 1600 hectares of land is covered under palm oil plantation and producing the oil so far. The health and the growth of the plantation is better than Malaysia, the prime palm oil growing country.

The Little Andaman and the other Islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands having a tremendous potential of raising at least 20,000 hectares of palm oil plantation by which not only we will be saving substantial quantity import of palm oil from abroad but shall be able to generate a substantial employment potential in the Islands. The present 1600 hectare plantation is economically not viable.

I urge upon the Government to finalise the appropriate scheme for raising palm oil plantation in this area.

(iii) Need to check the fish epidemic in Kerala

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): The fish epidemic in Kerala is going unabated. Even though the cause of the disease is

known, no remedial measures are found out. As a result, huge quantity of fish die everyday. Due to this, fisherman are on the verge of starvation. Even though the Kerala Government is giving free ration and financial assistance to the affected families, financials assistance from the Central Government to Kerala State has not yet been extended. This fish epidemic should be considered as a natural calamity and necessary help should be rendered to Kerala by the Central Government.

(iv) Need for early clearance to Rajasthan Government's proposal seeking financial assistance from IDA for improving water supply and sewerage in various cities of the State.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan has always been facing acute shortage of pure drinking water. Ramgarh lake, which supplies water to Jaipur, has dried up and the water level in wells had gone down by 10 to 15 metres. As a result, the residents of the State capital living on upper floors of the buildings do not get water at all and those living on ground floor get water only for two hours in the entire day. In Jodhpur sometimes the people get water for one hour after three days. The situation in Kota, Bikaner, Udaipur and Alwar is no better.

Due to the rising population, industrialisation and transportation, the sewerage system of these six cities are also not working properly. In lack of adequate clearance and treatment, the cities are stinking and getting polluted. For improving the water supply and sewerage in these six cities of Rajasthan, the State Government had sent a proposal to the Central Government on 29-6-1990 for seeking financial assistance worth Rs. 514 crore and 60 lakh from IDA but it is still pending with the Centre.

I would request that immediate action should be taken to provide the desired loan from the World Bank for the above said scheme.

(v) Need to set up a sugar factory at Pupari in Sitamarhi district, Bihar

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been a long-standing demand for setting up of a sugar factory in Pupari block under the most backward district Sitamarhi in Bihar. Agitations were also held in this regard. The former Minister has already announced setting up of a sugar factory in Pupari and may be the Government has already conducted a survey in this regard. Due to lack of proper arrangements, the farmers of Pupari, Sursand, Parihar, Sonevarsa, Bazpatti and Runni Saidpur and Nanpur blocks of Sitamarhi district and Darbhanga district and Madhvapur, Benipatti and Jale blocks of Madhubani district crush sugarcane in a crusher. As a result, the entire crop of sugarcane is not crushed in time. Due to which, the sugarcane dries up in the field. Every year, the farmers had to incur heavy losses due to this and it dampens their morale.

Therefore, I would request the Government that in view of the public interest, a sugar factory in the Centre of all these blocks, i.e. at Pupari should be set up.

(vi) Need to provide special duty allowance to postal employees of North Eastern region as is being provided to Central Government employees in that region

[*English*]

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under Rule 377.

I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards treatment meted out to Postal, Railway Mail Service and the Mail